



Great artists of Italy were real cutups

Q. *In the days of da Vinci and Michelangelo, good anatomy books weren't available. What'd these great artists do to bone up on the human body?*

A. They observed medical school autopsies and did their own covert dissections, reports American Artist magazine. To obtain fresh cadavers, they hung out around gallows and cut down the bodies of executed criminals.

A few art colleges today have students view autopsies as a way of supplementing anatomy classes, though the experience can be traumatic for some. Absent a corpse, an anatomical mannequin might do, available in either male or female and with flexible joints for bending into just about any desired position for observation and study.

Q. *Aspiring artists, can you identify what the following have in common? a) a cereal box b) a credit card c) your lover's torso*

A. You could throw in flags, playing cards, football fields, TV screens, much of the work of Michelangelo and da Vinci, and the ancient Greek Parthenon as well.

All incorporate "golden rectangles," with a length about 1.6 times width.

Surveys have shown that rectangles of this proportion are most pleasing to the eye, not too elongated and more interesting than a simple square.

As for your lover's torso (or your own), it harbors a golden rectangle defined by the shoulders across the top and extending down to the tips of the fingers at the sides.

Q. *Would-be crime busters, got a bug for biology? Then forensic entomology might be for you. What sorts of cases could you expect to work on?*

A. In a classic 1850 case, a French plasterer uncovered a baby's body lodged behind a mantelpiece, and the question for the court became whether the current or previous occupants should be suspected. The discovery of mite eggs and blowfly larvae at autopsy put the time of death in 1848, clearing the present residents.

In Ventura County, Calif., in 1982, police noted chigger bites on a murder suspect similar to ones they themselves sustained where the body was found, in a remote area under a eucalyptus tree. An entomologist, studying various locales, identified chiggers only at the site in question, implicating the suspect (who had denied being anywhere near there).

While investigating a rape, Chicago police found a ski mask in a suspect's apartment like the one used in the crime, but the man claimed not to have worn it in more than a year. Analysis turned up two cockleburrs stuck to the cloth and containing live weevil larvae of a type that wouldn't have survived the winter in a warm apartment. So they had to have been picked up more recently on the mask. This entomological evidence helped

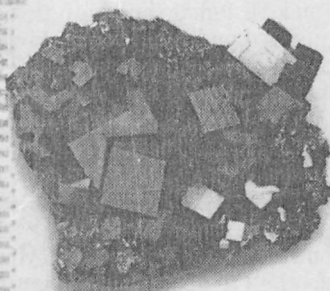
Winners of the 1998 Governor's Medal for Science and Technology range from a professor of agriculture to an archaeologist.

Academia: Dr. Spotswood Lee Spruance, professor of medicine at the University of Utah, whose research focuses on herpes simplex virus, papilloma virus and HIV. John O. Evans, distinguished professor at Utah State University, who for the past 30 years has taught weed science, uses of herbicide and plant research.

Education: Duane Merrell, Emery High School, Castle Dale, who helped build up the physics program so that now it has 25 percent of the high school students, with girls participating fully. Joseph Hugh Baird, retired professor, Brigham Young University, Provo, who has worked for 35 years to advance science education and is a science consultant to the State Office of Education.

Industry: David A. Burt, Utah State University, Logan. Director of USU's Space Dynamics Laboratory, he guided the lab into its present world prominence.

Government. David B. Madsen, Utah Geological Survey. Madsen is an authority on the archaeology of Utah and the western United States. His work has taken on international importance with his excavations in northwestern China, where the desert is similar to that of the Great Basin.



Earth treasures

The College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, Price, is hosting an exhibition about rocks, minerals and gemstones.

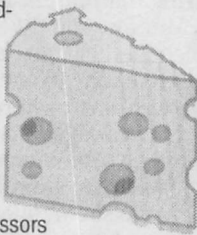
"The Nature of Stones: Minerals, Rocks and Gemstones of the World," began last Saturday and will continue through Sept. 30.

"Looking to increase your own collection?" asked a museum spokesman, answering that the show is the place. "Rough and polished minerals, gemstones and jewelry will be available for sale."

For more information, contact the CEU museum at 435-637-5060.

Less fat, more flavor

Flavor-enhancers developed in part at Utah State University, Logan, are improving the quality of lower-fat cheeses, according to USU's Jeff Broadbent. Pilot research on the project also generated more than \$1.5 million in federal grants that will help dairy processors improve the taste of both reduced-fat and traditional cheese.



Women outscore men in Web IQ test

The high-tech industry is dominated by men, but women are just as Internet savvy, according to a San Francisco Chronicle report on a test of Web surfers' online intelligence.

Utah, by the way, scored second highest as a state on the

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